

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 22, with the following paragraph:

In order to accomplish that objective, at least one of said bearing surfaces is provided with at least one cavity extending over  $0.3 \text{ mm}^2$  to  $3 \text{ mm}^2$ , preferably over  $0.5 \text{ mm}^2$  to  $2 \text{ mm}^2$ , of said at least one bearing surface. In one preferred embodiment the content of said cavity is between  $0.3 \text{ mm}^3$  and  $4 \text{ mm}^3$ , preferably between  $0.5 \text{ mm}^3$  and  $2 \text{ mm}^3$ , and more preferably between  $0.7 \text{ mm}^3$  and  $[[1,5]] \text{ } 1.5 \text{ mm}^3$ . One or more cavities may be present in one of the bearing surfaces, but also both bearing surfaces may be provided with such cavities.

Please replace the Abstract with the following Abstract:

A gas bearing system comprising  $[[to]]$  two opposing substantially parallel bearing surfaces (2, 3) and at least one gas duct (6) for supplying gas through an orifice (7) to the bearing gap (5) between ~~said the~~ bearing surfaces (2, 3). At least one of ~~said the~~ bearing surfaces (2, 3) is provided with at least one cavity (8, 9) extending over  $0.3 \text{ mm}^2$  to  $3 \text{ mm}^2$  of ~~said the~~ at least one bearing surface (2, 3). The content of ~~said the~~ cavity (8, 9) may be between  $0.3 \text{ mm}^3$  and  $4 \text{ mm}^3$ . The gas duct (6) may supply gas to ~~said the~~ cavity (8) through an orifice (7) in the wall of ~~said the~~ cavity (8).